



Portage County Democratic Party News and Notes - October 2020

Dear %firstname%,

Election Day is less than two weeks away. The time for talk has ended, and the time for action is at hand. Here's what you should do:

- 1) [Learn more](#) about this year's candidates.
- 2) [Make your plan](#) to VOTE ASAP.
- 3) [Volunteer](#) to help others vote, too.

You will find additional opportunities to get involved below.

Together, we will bring positive change to Portage County. I look forward to celebrating with you soon, and to getting to work.

Forward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean DePerro', written in a cursive style.

Dean DePerro, Chairman

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Call to Action - Poll Greeters Needed!

We're working harder than ever to make sure folks vote all the way down the ballot. Why does that matter?

We all know voting for President is critical...but this year, Democrats have an opportunity to take back the Ohio Supreme Court for the first time since the early 1980s. If we succeed, we can push back against gerrymandering and the excesses of our broken and corrupt Republican legislature.

Help us win! [Sign up here](#) to help by distributing our sample ballots at our early voting location in Ravenna and at the polls on Election Day.

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Elections Updates - How To Vote, Report Issues

Request your General Election vote-by-mail ballot ASAP! It's not too late to request your absentee ballot...but time is running short! Visit the Board's [website](#) and print off an absentee ballot request form, complete it, and return it ASAP. Your voted ballot must be postmarked by the day before Election Day to be counted, so don't wait! For more information, please call the Board of Elections at 330-297-3511.

Early in-person voting is now open. You can vote early in-person at the Board of Elections in Ravenna every day from now through Election Day! Hours are posted on the Board's [website](#).

Find your polling place for Election Day voting. Do you plan to vote in-person on Election Day? Do you know where you vote? [Double-check here](#), and make sure you know when you plan to go and that you have proper ID ready. Polls are open on Election Day 6:30am - 7:30pm.

Report voting issues. If you run into trouble voting - voter intimidation, poll worker errors, or something else - report it ASAP! Call the Board of Elections at 330-297-3511, or the Ohio Voter Protection Hotline at 844-OH-I-VOTE (844-644-8683).

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Upcoming Events - Time to GET OUT THE VOTE!

NOTE: The list below does not include all the events going on - only the ones we have room for here! For a full list, visit our website's [Events](#) page, and check our [Facebook Page](#) regularly.

[Mueri for Congress Phone Banks - Wednesdays - 6pm - 8pm - Mobilize](#)

Join the campaign of Hillary O'Connor Mueri for the final push to Election Day, and let's send "Toro" to fight for us in the 14th Congressional District!

[Kathleen Clyde Phone Banks - Thursdays - 6pm - 7pm - Mobilize](#)

Come join Kathleen Clyde and Team Kathleen as she connects with Portage

County voters and seeks a new term as Commissioner. Training, a call script and phone numbers will be provided. Just bring your enthusiasm!

[*Phone a Friend w/ Rader - Wednesdays - 6pm - 8pm - Zoom*](#)

Come join Ohio Senate candidate Betsy Rader as she connects with Portage County voters. Training, a call script and phone numbers will be provided. Just bring your enthusiasm!

[*Fall in Love w/ Think Fink - 10/22/20 - 6pm - 7pm - Zoom*](#)

Join candidate for Recorder Leighann Fink for a night of beautiful, healing music with Mary Beth Ions. During this difficult moment, let's share the gift of music and a moment to breathe.

[*Meet the Candidate - Greg Johnson for Sheriff - 10/22/20 - 7:30pm - 8pm - Zoom*](#)

Join Commissioner Kathleen Clyde for a conversation with our candidate for Sheriff, Greg Johnson. Learn more about Greg's plans for the Sheriff's Office and law enforcement in Portage County.

[*Aurora Stands w/ Biden - 10/24/20 - 11am - 2pm - Aurora Mem. Library*](#)

Join like-minded folks in Aurora to cheer on Team Biden on the main intersection in downtown Aurora! Our energetic group will be there from 11am - 2pm, so stop by and show your support!

[*Biden GOTV Dry Runs - 10/24 and 10/25 - 9am - 9pm - Mobilize*](#)

It's time for GOTV dry runs! We'll be making calls and sending texts to encourage as many voters as possible to cast their ballots early for Joe Biden and our other Democratic candidates. Shifts are available in 3-hour blocks.

[*Biden Phone Bank - 10/27/20 - 6pm - 8pm - Mobilize*](#)

This is our final set of Biden calls targeted exclusively at Portage County voters! Help us move the needle for Joe and our other great candidates locally one last time before the push through Election Day!

[*GOTV Phone and Text Banks - 10/31 - 11/3 - 9am - 9pm - Mobilize*](#)

This is it, folks...time to get our folks out the polls and WIN! Shifts are available in 3-hour blocks each of the last four days of the campaign. Find more information our website's "Events" page above, and let's make history together!

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ICYMI - News and Notes

[WOSU - LaRose defends decision to limit ballot drop boxes - 9/16/20](#)

"On Wednesday morning, the court ordered LaRose to explain why he 'will not honor prior statements that he would abide by this court's ruling.'"

[Columbus Dispatch - Ohio a bellwhether for Black voters? - 9/17/20](#)

"Could Ohio be a bellwhether for a nationwide wave of Black voter turnout in the presidential election? The Rev. Al Sharpton thinks so."

[WJW - Cuyahoga Democrats accuse LaRose of voter suppression - 9/17/20](#)

"The Cuyahoga County Democratic Party is accusing Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose of trying to suppress voters in the general election."

[WSYX - Is Ohio still a swing state? Suburbs may decide - 9/21/20](#)

"'A big part of our electorate in our suburbs that used to be Republican are now open to voting for Democrats,' (State Dems Chair David Pepper) said."

[New York Times - Battles over voting rules fuel concern about post-election fights - 9/24/20](#)

"In Ohio, the battle over drop boxes has been even more perplexing. The secretary of state, Frank LaRose, a Republican, ruled this month that each county may have only one drop-off location for ballots, saying he was constrained by existing law from expanding the number of sites. A court had issued an opinion this month saying there was no one-box-per-county restriction. But Mr. LaRose said that, since it was just an opinion...he saw no reason to reverse his original decision."

[CNN - Ohio Democrats think Biden can win the state, urge campaign to go all in - 9/28/20](#)

"'Ohio is within the margin of error despite minimal relative investment by the Biden campaign versus the Trump campaign or other swing states,' reads the memo, which was sent to national Democratic officials and a senior member of the Biden campaign."

[Yahoo - Ohio could be Biden's best bet to keep Trump from contesting election results - 9/29/20](#)

"'Win Ohio,' Pepper added, 'and you've just ended not just the Trump presidency - you've ended the drama that Trump wants before it ever got started.'"

[Record-Courier - Biden rolls through Portage County - 9/30/20](#)

Summation of Joe Biden's train rolling through Portage County, and the crowds that gathered to greet him.

[Columbus Dispatch - 'Poll watchers' in Ohio could be removed if they don't abide -10/1/20](#)

"Election observers who monitor polling places and election counts will be required to wear face coverings in Ohio, and those who refuse could be removed from polling places."

[AP - Biden makes ad push into rural Ohio as early voting starts -10/6/20](#)

"Democrat Joe Biden is expanding his ad buys into every corner of Ohio as early voting begins Tuesday, signaling his campaign's growing hopes that a state Donald Trump won easily four years ago may be within the former vice president's grasp."

[Ohio Capital Journal - Most legislators are men. Will that change in '21? -10/7/20](#)

"There are 36 women out of the 132 present legislators. A review by the Ohio Capital Journal found there are 69 female candidates for state legislator on the ballot this fall, with most campaigning for a House seat."

[WKSU- The real goal of misinformation campaigns targeting Black voters -10/9/20](#)

"In 2016, Black voters in Ohio were among those most targeted for digital-media misinformation. And the goal often wasn't so much to sway their votes as to ensure they wouldn't vote at all."

[Advance Ohio- Biden leans on Brown's 'dignity of work' playbook -10/10/20](#)

"Biden's speech stressed the strength of the American worker, the need for more union jobs to help rebuild the county and tough talk on companies that

outsource their jobs overseas. It's a game plan that Brown has been pushing Democrats to make since 2016, especially so after Brown was the lone Democrat to win statewide office in the midterms."

[*Record-Courier - Two former law enforcement officers running for Portage County Sheriff -10/13/20*](#)

"Zuchowski (R) did not grant the Record-Courier an interview, despite multiple requests via phone and email. Johnson (D) spoke with a reporter for this story and a story earlier this year during the primary election."

[*Rolling Stone - Broken Promises: How Trump betrayed the autoworkers of Youngstown, Ohio -10/14/20*](#)

"The terrible irony is was that blue-collar workers in Youngstown saw Trump as their friend. In 2012, Obama carried the Mahoning Valley, consisting of Youngstown and its suburbs, by nearly 60,000 votes. Four years later, Trump won the valley by more than 20,000 votes, contributing to his winning the state by eight points."

[*Record-Courier - Judge candidates Doherty, Noble vow to work on county's drug problem -10/18/20*](#)

"Noble said he would like to expand the drug court to work more with mental health, and possibly create a diversion court to deal with mental health issues."

[*The Portager - Everything you need to know about voting in Portage County -10/18/20*](#)

A summation of voting rules and information, from the Board of Elections and League of Women Voters.

[*Toledo Blade - Redistricting draws Karl Rove into Ohio Supreme Court race -10/19/20*](#)

"Conservative national political strategist Karl Rove has gotten involved in the fight for control of the Ohio Supreme Court, and he makes it clear he's driven by one issue: redistricting."

[*Ohio Capital Journal - Rader files defamation suit against her opponent -10/19/20*](#)

"Betsy Rader, the Democratic candidate in the race, accused challenger Jerry Cirino and the Ohio Republican Senate Campaign Committee of running attack

ads on media outlets throughout the county claiming Rader defended bosses at a law firm against sexual harrasment claims that occurred in the early 1990s. Rader called the statements 'untrue, materially false and defamatory,' according to court documents filed Friday."

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For more news and notes on the activities of Democrats from around Ohio, sign up for the Ohio Democratic Party Daily Update [here](#).

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